IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS

A. STEINBUCHEL ET AL.

SERIAL NO.

DIVISIONAL OF 08/976,063, FILED 21 NOVEMBER 1997

FILED

28 DECEMBER 2000

FOR

SYNTHETIC ENZYMES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF

CONIFERYL ALCOHOL, CONIFERYLALDEHYDE,

FERULIC ACID, VANILLIN AND VANILLIC ACID AND

THEIR USE

ART UNIT

1652

EXAMINER

P. TUNG

Date December 28, 2000

BOX PATENT APPLICATION Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants submit the following Preliminary Amendment in order to place the instant application in better condition for examination on the merits.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 5, please change "synthetic" to --synthesis--.

Page 17, line 21, following the sequence please insert -- SEQ ID NO: 43 --.

Page 19, line 6, following the sequence please insert -- SEQ ID NO: 44 --.

Page 20, line 13, at the start of the sequence, please delete the number "1" and following the sequence, please insert -- SEQ ID NO: 45 --.

Please replace pages 23-118 with replacement pages 23-109, attached herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS:

In line 1 of Claim 3, delete "claims 1 and 2" and insert -- claim 1-- therein.

REMARKS

Claim 3 is amended. Claims 1-13 are the only claims pending in the instant application and are presented for consideration.

The above amendments were necessary to eliminate multiple dependent claims, correct typographical errors, and otherwise bring the instant application into conformance with accepted US patent application practice.

In addition, Applicants submit printed and electronic copies of the sequence listings appearing on pages 17, 19, 20, and 23 - 118 of the instant specification. Applicants aver that the printed and electronic copies are identical and that no forbidden new matter has been added via the above amendments.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS MCLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

y Lictor

Reg. No. 39,359

220 East 42nd Street 30th Floor New York, New York 10017 212-808-0700 (voice) 212-808-0844 (facsimile)

Enclosure:

Printed and electronic copies of sequence listings

Express Mail Label Number:

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Date of Deposit:

December 28, 2000

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